

Camp Rockaway Officially Opens in Schuylerville

Brings "Glamping" to the Hudson River's Shores

by Pete Bardunias
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Glamping is camping with a twist – a much more glamorous way to spend a night in a tent, complete with a comfortable bed, better accommodations, rest rooms and showers, and if you visit Camp Rockaway at Schuylerville, an amazing view! Within a few hundred feet of the tents is the mighty Lock C-5 of the Champlain Canal (Hudson River), Hudson Crossing Park (so named because General Burgoyne crossed the Hudson there in 1777 on his way to infamy at Saratoga), and so much more.



It was a joyous celebration as staff and volunteer Ambassadors of both the Capital Region and Saratoga County Chambers, elected officials and area well wishers joined Camp Rockaway Founder Kent Johnson (center, with scissors) in cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Other notable figures included the author (2nd from left), Saratoga County Clerk

Craig Hayner (also with scissors), New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian Stratton (holding ribbon), Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner (next to Johnson), Town of Saratoga Supervisor Tom Wood (tan slacks, navy shirt), and Debbie Curto representing State Senator Daphne Jordan (blue and white dress).

Landlubbers and boaters alike will enjoy the potential for a unique overnight stay in one of Camp Rockaway's tents, along with a walk on the historic towpath trail, a visit to downtown Schuylerville to replenish or enjoy a great meal, bicycling on trails or country roads, or maybe even a scenic boat ride aboard the *Caldwell Belle* or *Mohawk Maiden* of nearby Mohawk Maiden Cruises.

One interesting aspect of this new glamping site is that for perhaps the first time, the upper Hudson and Lake Champlain is easily accessible to day boaters from downstate. Even boats without cabins can cruise the canals from below Troy to Schuylerville in one day, stay overnight at Camp Rockaway while tied up either at the Lock wall or nearby Schuyler Yacht Basin, then continue

to Westport Marina on Lake Champlain the next day, and subsequently even further to Burlington. Overnight sleeping accommodations are within walking distance from the water at these locations. It's a busy trip and perhaps a less ambitious voyage is more achievable for some, but this is indeed an attainable itinerary, especially early to mid-summer when days are longer. Are there any boaters out there who have tried this idea, and maybe struggled to find a place to stay overnight? Please email the author at pbardunias@capitalregionchamber.com with your stories and/or suggestions.

However you get there, Camp Rockaway is sure to provide a unique experience. Check out their website at camprockaway.com/schuylerville/ for more information.



Camp Rockaway founder Kent Johnson (center) posed with the author (far right), plus Captain Marla Hodge and son Jose of Mohawk Maiden Cruises, which is based just across the street

on the upper side of Lock C-5. The small, rural community of Schuylerville is home to an amazing array of places to see, things to do, and food to savor and is a must-stop for any cruising boat



Attendees from the grand opening celebration toured the Camp Rockaway facility, its tents and grounds. Staying at Camp Rockaway provides a unique experience, far more comfortable than a typical camping trip.

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